Operation Iragi Freedom II

"Telling the First Team's Story"

Wednesday, May 26, 2004

Building Trust:

Affairs Team Delivers the Goods

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel 122nd MPAD

TAJI, Iraq- Trust. To an Iraqi populace overly familiar with the lies and deceits of the former regime, trust of those in power is hard to come by. As coalition forces work to restore sovereignty to the Iraqi people, cooperation from local governing councils grows more important with each passing

Soldiers of A-Team 5, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion (CA), 2-7 Cavalry, 39th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Cavalry Division, delivered school supplies and facilitated the delivery of clothing and medical equipment provided by the First Team's Division Support Command (DISCOM) during a council meeting May With this delivery to the Al-Taji Nahia, the equivalent to a Neighborhood Area Council,

the CA Team took a step towards building the trust of the council they support.

"This delivery lets the local populace know we (coalition forces) care and we are trying to make a difference," said Capt. Bob Fraas, a civil military operations officer with the 489th CA Bn. "It also gives the council some legitimacy. By delivering the supplies to the council members instead of directly to citizens and having the council members and Imams pass the items out, we've enabled the council members to say 'See, we are able to work with the Coalition."

Wide grins were seen and appreciative words heard as Soldiers carried 35 boxes of supplies into the building situated between Highway 1 and Camp Cooke. Council members rummaged through the



Capt. Elizabeth Levitt, 1st Cavalry Division's Division Support Command's medical supply logistics officer, explains to a council member that the box she holds contains food for infants. Members of 2-7 Cav and DIS-COM delivered medical equipment, school supplies, and clothing to the Al-Taji Nahia during a visit May 9.



Photos by Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. John Hultquist, 489th CA Battalion shows members of the Al-Taji Nahia some of the medical supplies his team delivered. In addition to medical equipment, the CA team delivered school supplies and clothing with the First Team's Division Support Command.

(American

families)

something

for the Iraqi

people."

boxes inspecting the items, laughing as they came across stuffed animals and plastic bottle nipples, diapers and cans of "They

baby formula. "For Baby!" explained Capt. Elizabeth Levitt,

the division med-wanted to do ical logistics officer with DISCOM, as she held up a box of formula and motioned towards her stomach indicating the item was

"All of the clothing came from families back

food.

in the United States," said Col. Mark Hurley, DISCOM commander. "They (American families) wanted to do something for the Iraqi people, and we felt this was a really good way for

the families to be involved."

Switching gears to talk about the medical supplies his command had provided,

> Hurley took moment to explain some of the other DISCOM areas could be helpful in building relationships with the local governing council.

"We bring a lot of unique skills to -COL Mark Iraq. We've got medical skills. Hurley, logistics skills, and commander. people who've got DISCOM pretty big hearts,"

> he said. "The intent of DIS-COM is to provide services to the Iraqi people, on a small scale, gain their trust and cooperation and build a better trust between the two peoples."



Hero of the Week



1st Cav. Div. Trooper Aids Injured Iraqi Boy

B v Sgt. John Oueen 3rd Brigade Combat Team **Public Affairs**

BAGHDAD, Iraq- The right person, at the right place, at the right time, with the right training can make all the difference in a place like Baghdad.

Escorting members of the Coalition Provisional Authority on mission after mission, the days seem to blend together like a scene from the movie Groundhog Day. At times, though, they are punctuated by one of the true reasons the Army is here: to help.

Pvt. Sean Watkins and other Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 82 Field Artillery, were on an escort mission to the Al Dura oil refinery in Baghdad recently. As they waited to escort an official to a meeting. Watkins noticed a number of Iraqi civilians carrying a young boy who appeared to be injured. Watkins, taking the initiative, asked his platoon leader if he could go check the boy out.

"He kept pressing the issue that this kid needs care," said 1st Lt. Corey Clyburn, Watkins platoon leader.

Getting the okay from Clyburn, Watkins climbed out of his gunner's hatch and went to assess the boy's condition.

"I could immediately tell he was suffering from heat stroke," said Watkins. "He was unconscious; he wasn't sweating. He was pretty bad off."

Watkins returned to his vehicle and retrieved his combat life-saver bag.

"I then administered an IV to the boy," he said.

After five minutes on the intravenous solution, a physical difference could be seen in the boy's condition, Watkins said.

"He began to sweat again, he regained consciousness," he said. "By the time we left, he was able to sit up, talk and drink water on his own."

"This is the kind of stuff Watkins strives for," said Clyburn. "He saved that kid's life."

"Private Watkins is a good Soldier that did the right thing at the right time," Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Jones said. "I'm really happy he was there."

"It was a good experience for me," Watkins said.



By Sgt. John Queen, 3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Pvt. Sean Watkins from the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment was selected as the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's 'Hero of the Week' for his life-saving initiative. Watkins successfully treated a young Iraqi boy suffering from heat stroke.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Good morning Good night

SabaH-el-khayr tiS-baH aala khayr

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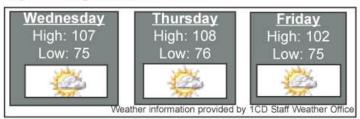
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On the Home Front

First Team Parents to Share In Pomp and Circumstance

▶ From Killeen Daily Herald

BELTON, Texas- The sounds of a five-piece band, live from Baghdad, echoed off the empty seats of the Bell County Expo Center Monday. Nearby, handfuls of people worried over computers and stacks of broadcasting equipment.

The scene was part of a dress rehearsal for the finely choreographed high school graduations taking place this week.

The 2004 commencement exercises of eight area schools will be broadcast to Baghdad, Iraq, while a live feed from Baghdad plays on a large screen in the Expo Center.

The effort to bridge the miles between Soldiers and their graduating children is as important as the missions they undertake in Iraq, Lt. Col. Robert Forrester said.

"This is absolutely essential to the war effort," he said. "Soldiers with high morale perform better — it's that simple."

Deployed parents of graduating students, if they can be made available, will gather together at Camp Victory North in Baghdad to watch their child's ceremony.

Salado, Belton, Copperas Cove, Temple, Killeen, Ellison, Shoemaker and Harker Heights high schools are the schools involved in the special graduations.

The Salado High School graduation, today [Tuesday] at 7:30 p.m., will be the first to put the six months of intense planning for the events to the test.

Forrester said there has been a tremendous amount of buzz about the graduations, both locally and halfway around the globe, in Iraq.

"I think the excitement is equal, if not greater, than it is here," Forrester said.

Technology experts from Killeen Independent School District and KISD-TV Channel 17 worked with 1st Cavalry rear detachment Soldiers Monday to iron out last-minute wrinkles. Both ends of the satellite link simulated a graduation, complete with adults standing in for students and Soldiers in Baghdad posting the colors.

KISD instructional technology experts Jennifer Cabaniss and Shirley Boyd, who have seen the project from its infancy, said they have been testing the technical operations on a daily basis and all that remains are small logistics.

The basic graduation procedure is uniform, but small nuances have been added, at



Killeen Daily Herald

Mike Bartoszek, a videographer for KNCT-TV, moves a remote camera on a JIB as Spc. Joseph Hickey waves from his control booth at Camp Victory in Baghdad, during a practice run for area graduation ceremonies this weekend at the Bell County Expo Center. The event is drawing national attention as deployed Soldiers will be able to see their children graduate via teleconferencing and real-time broadcasting.

the request of the schools, in order to give each ceremony its own personality.

School banners have been sent to Iraq to decorate the scene there. Some schools have requested that the 1st Cav band play a number, or that Soldiers post the colors.

Boyd and Cabaniss said crafting the graduations has been fun and a blessing to be able to pull off for students and their parents. But the partnerships that have made everything possible have been amazing, Boyd said.

About 252 graduating stu-

dents have parents deployed with the 1st Cavalry Division who may get to take part in the broadcast, Forrester said.

Many of those students will also get to spend a few minutes in a back room at the Expo Center having a video tele-conference with their deployed parent. The conferences will take place all week.

Forrester said, to his knowledge, a graduation project like this has not been undertaken before and it will be interesting to see what kind of reactions they get from circles outside the Fort Hood area.

HENRY ROLLINS appearing at the

BLACK JACK DFAC WEDNESDAY, MAY 26 1230 - 1400

Actor, Author, Publisher, Record Company Executive and Commercial Spokesman

Black Flag Band, Rollins Band www.henrycollins.com



Bell County Expo Graduation Schedule

(Times are Central Standard Time)
May 25, 2004 7:30PM - Salado High School
May 27, 2004 8:00PM - Belton High School
May 28, 2004 7:30PM - Copperas Cove High School
May 29, 2004 10:00AM - Temple High School
May 29, 2004 3:00PM - Killeen High School
May 29, 2004 8:00PM - Ellison High School
May 30, 2004 2:00PM - Harker Heights High School
May 30, 2004 6:00PM - Shoemaker High School

Sports/Leisure

Today in History

May 26

▶ From <u>historychannel.com</u>

1864 Montana Territory created 1865 The last Confederate army surrenders

1896 Czar Nicholas II crowned

1897 Bram Stoker's novel Dracula goes on sale in London

1907 John Wayne is born 1960 United States charges Soviets with espionage 1965 Australian troops depart for Vietnam

Today in Cav History

1969 "B" Troop, 1st squadron, 9th Cavalry positioned in northern Vietnam uncovered one of the largest supply caches, 45 tons of rice, 11 tons of salt, 23 cases of B-40 rockets, 10 cases of .50 caliber ammunition, and numerous other supplies

'Idol' Outcome on the Line

▶ From AP

RALEIGH, N.C. — Fresh fruit and NASCAR tickets were on the line as Gov. Mike Easley and Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue placed bets on the outcome of the season finale of "American Idol," the popular Fox TV talent show.

Both had campaigned to bring the "Idol" title home, with Easley encouraging Tar Heel viewers to vote for 19year-old Fantasia Barrino of High Point, and Perdue urging Georgians to support 16-yearold Diana DeGarmo of Snellville.

The two teens were to perform three songs each Tuesday night before a live, nationally televised audience in Los Angeles, and the phone lines were to be open for four hours - twice as long as usual - to give fans plenty of time to cast their votes. The winner was to be announced during Wednesday night's two-hour finale.

Easley, a Democrat, wagered two VIP ticket packages to an Oct. 16 NASCAR race at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord. His bet also included a flat of 16 pints of blueberries from a Johnston County nursery.

Perdue, a Republican, countered with two VIP ticket packages to an Oct. 31 NASCAR race at Atlanta Motor Speedway. He also bet a bushel of peaches.



Diana DeGarmo, 16, (left) and Fantasia Barrino, 19, are the two finalists in the current "American Idol" competition.



MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

New York 11 Baltimore 3

Boston 12 Oakland 2

Seattle 5 (12 innings) Cleveland 4

Tampa Bay 6 Minnesota 1

Texas 7 Chicago 4

Kansas City 4 Detroit 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Montreal 3 Atlanta 1

Cincinnati 5 Florida 2

New York 5 Philadelphia o

Los Angeles 5 Milwaukee 3

Houston 5 Chicago o

Pittsburgh @ St. Louis postponed (rain)



NBA

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best of 7 series)
Western Conference

Minnesota @ Los Angeles (Series tied 1-1)



STANLEY CUP FINALS (Best of 7 series)

Calgary 4 Tampa Bay 1 (Calgary leads series 1-0)

| TV GUIDE | AFN | PACIFIC | Sports | AFN Spectrum |
|----------|---|---|--|--|
| 18:00 | Popular Mechanics for Kids/ Llberty's Kids | Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman | | Days of Thunder 17:00 |
| 19:00 | Jeopardy/ Headline News | Access Hollywood 19:30 | SportsCenter | The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants |
| 20:00 | ESPNews/ Headline News | Ghostbusters II | French Open Tennis - Early Round Coverage Day 3 | The Simpsons/ The Cosby Show |
| 21:00 | 8 Simple Rules/ The Bernie Mac Show | The Game 21:45 | | American Idol |
| 22:00 | Fear Factor | | | Star Trek: Next Generation |